

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 101

Introduced by Assembly Member Alquist
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wayne)

January 11, 2001

An act to add Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 128300) to Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 101, as amended, Alquist. Geriatric specialist training.

Existing law provides assistance to medical schools to help educate physicians.

This bill would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to administer a program to award scholarships to students enrolled in programs leading to a degree in gerontology, a master's certificate in gerontology, or an advanced practice nursing degree or ~~certificate in geriatrics, and social work degree specializing in gerontology.~~ *This bill would also require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to administer grants to medical residents who complete a fellowship in geriatrics and practice not less than 3 years in California as geriatricians.*

This bill would require the office to report annually to the Legislature on the implementation and effectiveness of those provisions.

This bill would specify that implementation of the program shall be limited to the extent funds are appropriated for that purpose.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) While there are over 640,000 physicians and surgeons in the
4 United States, less than 1 percent are formally trained,
5 board-approved geriatricians. This number of specialists is far too
6 small to adequately serve the current generation of seniors, much
7 less the advancing, aging baby-boom generation.

8 (b) The urgency of this shortage is underscored by the presence
9 of the fastest growing senior age group, people over 85 years of
10 age, who absolutely require the care of geriatric specialists. There
11 are now four million people in this group over 85 years of age and
12 they are greatly underserved medically as a consequence of the
13 unavailability of a sufficient number of geriatric physician
14 specialists.

15 (c) In California, there are five public medical schools that help
16 educate future physicians who will serve the citizens of the state.
17 These state-supported schools should be turning out a greater
18 number of geriatric physician specialists to meet the growing need
19 for those specialists.

20 (d) To further the goal of educating a greater number of
21 geriatric physician specialists and students who pursue careers
22 serving older adults, the Legislature declares that it shall be the
23 policy of this state to pursue new initiatives, including, but not
24 limited to, annual state budget funds earmarked for expanded
25 geriatric medical training, and state-supported medical school
26 tuition reduction and waiver programs for California medical
27 students committed to this critical field of medicine.

28 SEC. 2. Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 128300) is
29 added to Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, to
30 read:

31

32 CHAPTER 4.5. GERIATRIC SPECIALIST EDUCATION

33

34 128300. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and
35 Development shall administer a program to award scholarships to



1 students who enroll in a program at an accredited postsecondary
2 educational institution within the state leading to a bachelor's
3 degree in gerontology, a master's degree with an emphasis in
4 gerontology, a master's certificate in gerontology, or an advanced
5 practice nursing degree ~~or certificate in geriatrics or social work~~
6 *degree specializing in gerontology*. Scholarships shall be in an
7 amount sufficient to cover the cost of mandatory systemwide and
8 campus-based fees charged to resident students enrolled in those
9 programs. A student who fails to complete the program in which
10 he or she is enrolled or who does not practice in geriatrics or
11 gerontology in California *for a period of not less than three years*
12 shall repay the full amount of the scholarship.

13 128303. For purposes of this chapter, "geriatrician" means a
14 physician who has completed a fellowship in geriatrics, and has
15 received a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ).

16 128305. The office shall administer grants to medical
17 residents who complete a fellowship in geriatrics leading to
18 eligibility for a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) shall be
19 eligible to receive sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) pursuant to
20 criteria developed under Section 128307. The payment shall
21 commence upon completion of the first year of actual practice in
22 California as a geriatrician. Upon completion of the first year of
23 actual practice fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) shall be paid to
24 the doctor. Upon completion of the second year of practice in
25 California as a geriatrician twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)
26 shall be paid to the doctor. Upon completion of the third year of
27 practice in California as a geriatrician twenty-five thousand
28 dollars (\$25,000) shall be paid to the doctor.

29 128307. (a) The office, in consultation with representatives
30 from academic medical centers that sponsor geriatric training
31 programs and from institutions that grant degrees or certificates in
32 accordance with Section 128300, shall establish criteria for the
33 participation in the programs prescribed by this chapter, and for the
34 evaluation of those programs.

35 ~~(b) The office shall ensure that the number of participating~~
36 ~~medical residents is equal to the number of participants seeking a~~
37 ~~bachelor of science or master's degree in the social sciences. The~~
38 ~~office shall ensure that there is reasonable parity between the~~
39 ~~number of participating medical residents and the number of~~
40 ~~participants seeking a bachelor's or master's degree in~~

1 *gerontology, a master's certificate in gerontology, or an advanced*
2 *practice nursing or social work degree specializing in gerontology.*

3 128309. The office shall submit a report annually to the
4 Legislature regarding the implementation and effectiveness of this
5 chapter. The office shall include in its annual report for 2002, a
6 recommendation with regard to whether the program established
7 by this chapter should be expanded to include students enrolled in
8 other types of degree or certificate programs that may benefit from
9 this program.

10 128311. The amount of scholarships or grants awarded
11 annually under this chapter shall not exceed one million dollars
12 (\$1,000,000).

13 128313. This chapter shall be implemented to the extent funds
14 are appropriated for this purpose.

